

EYE ON IRAQ

July 11, 2005

The people of Iraq, with help from Coalition member nations, have made progress in the past few weeks. Large and small daily accomplishments marked progress toward Iraqi self-reliance. Some contributed directly to combating terrorism while others facilitated reconstruction and economic development.

What follows is a partial list of those successes:

North of Kirkuk, a Coalition patrol, which included three members of the Northern Oil Company Fire Department, discovered an ammunition cache based upon a tip from a local Iraqi. The patrol contacted an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team which decided to physically remove the rounds rather than blow them in place and risk damaging pipelines in the area. The patrol extracted over 250 rounds from the site.



Over 250 122mm rounds of ammunition were discovered near Kirkuk and properly disposed of by an Iraqi Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

July 3, the 3rd Iraqi Army Division delivered food and supplies to citizens in the town of Tal Qasab. Among other items being distributed, the Iraqi people were given sunflower oil, rice, beans, lentils, snack cakes, fig jelly, noodles, corned beef, canned tuna, and canned vegetables.



Local Iraqi's receive food through a distribution point established by the 3rd Iraqi Army Division near the town of Tal Qasab, Iraq.

In Kirkuk, local Iraqi Police were patrolling near 4th Bridge Road when local residents notified them about an abandoned taxi. The IP cordoned off the area and called for an Iraqi Explosive Ordinance Disposal team. Upon arrival, IEOD discovered the vehicle contained six 122mm artillery rounds placed beneath the back seat and in the trunk. Members of IEOD dismantled the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, inspected the vehicle further and cleared the scene of any other bombs in or around the vehicle.



A member of the Iraqi Explosive Ordinance Disposal team works to dismantle an IED.



July 3, the Iraqi Army conducted hasty traffic control points along some main highways and routes. The goal of the traffic control points was to identify any possible vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and search for illegal weapons.



An Iraqi soldier searches a vehicle at a hasty traffic control point.

July 5, acting upon a local shepherd's tip, the 4th Iraqi Army Battalion secured an old minefield near the town of Bidawan. Although the mines were old leftovers from previous wars, the Iraqi Army soldiers cordoned off the area, marked the site as a danger area and a de-mining operation was scheduled.

Progress is being made in the reconstruction effort of Yarmouk University. The \$476,000 project was initiated by the Diyala Director of Education. Currently, the focus of the project, which is now 15% complete, is stabilizing the walls, inserting electrical wiring, and repairing broken windows.

The Sammi Al Assi village, Kirk Province, recently opened a new Health Clinic. The Clinic, which is located between Taza City and Rashad City, is now ready to begin providing the villagers from both cities quality medical care and cuts down on travel time for individuals who are seeking urgent medical care.



Local Iraqi's celebrate the opening of a new Medical Clinic with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.